

CLAIMS

[1] A method of photographing an inspected portion of a subject, comprising the steps of:

- 5 arranging a camera that has an automatic focusing function in such a way that it can swivel to a prescribed position facing the subject to be inspected;
 swiveling the camera in such a way that its field of view moves sequentially along an inspected portion of the subject;
 capturing an image, by means of the camera, every time the camera's field of
10 view reaches an inspected portion of the subject; and
 inspecting the condition of the subject by processing the image data of the inspected portion that was photographed.

[2] The method of photographing according to claim 1, wherein

- 15 the camera has an automatic exposure adjustment function that automatically adjusts the exposure when an inspected portion of the subject is photographed in color.

[3] The method of photographing according to claim 1, wherein

- 20 the camera has a focal distance change function that adjusts the focal distance of the camera in such a way that every time the camera's field of view reaches an inspected portion of the subject, the resolution of the photographed range is substantially constant.

25 [4] A method of inspecting the state of adhesion of a paste-type member, comprising the steps of:

- arranging a camera that has an automatic focusing function in such a way that it can swivel to a prescribed position facing the subject, to the upper surface of an outer edge of which a paste-type member adheres in the form of a continuous strip;
30 swiveling the camera in such a way that its field of view moves sequentially along an outer edge of the subject;
 capturing an image, by means of the camera, every time the camera's field of view reaches an inspected portion of the paste-type member that adheres in the form of a strip to the upper surface of an outer edge of the subject;

extracting color or shading from the captured image and deleting noise from the image data of the captured image;

sequentially detecting the width of the extracted strip-shaped region of the paste-type member;

5 judging whether or not the strip-shaped region is of a prescribed width; and
 determining if the state of adhesion of the paste-type member is defective by judging whether the width of the detected strip-shaped region is too much wider or too much narrower than the prescribed width.

10 [5] The method of inspecting the state of adhesion of a paste-type member according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:

 displaying on a display device the judgment result of whether the width of the detected strip-shaped region is too much wider or too much narrower than the prescribed width.

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[6] The method of inspecting the state of application of a paste-type member according to claim 4, wherein

 the paste-type member that adheres to the upper surface of an outer edge of the subject in the form of a continuous strip is a liquid gasket.

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[7] A photographic device for inspecting the condition of a member that adheres to an inspected portion of a subject, comprising:

 a camera that has an automatic focusing function and is arranged in such a way that it can swivel to a prescribed position facing the subject to be inspected;

25 driving means for driving the camera in such a way that the camera's field of view moves sequentially along an inspected portion of the subject;

 means for operating the camera in such a way that every time its field of view reaches an inspected portion of the subject, the camera photographs the inspected portion; and

30 image processing means for processing the image data of an inspected portion that was photographed by the camera.

[8] The photographic device according to claim 7, wherein

the camera has a focal distance change function that adjusts the focal distance of the camera in such a way that every time the camera's field of view reaches an inspected portion of the subject, the resolution of the photographed range is substantially constant.

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[9] A device for inspecting the state of adhesion of a paste, comprising:

a camera that has an automatic focusing function and is arranged in such a way that it can swivel to a prescribed position facing a subject, to the upper surface of an outer edge of which a paste is applied in the form of a continuous strip;

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driving means for driving the camera in such a way that the camera's field of view moves sequentially along an outer edge of the subject;

means for operating the camera in such a way that every time its field of view reaches an inspected portion of the paste that adheres in a strip shape to the upper surface of an outer edge of the subject, the camera photographs the paste that is

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located at the inspected portion;

processing means for extracting color or shading from the image captured by the camera and delete noise from the image data of the image; and

judgment means for sequentially detecting the width of the extracted strip-shaped region of the paste, judging whether or not the strip-shaped region is of a prescribed width, and determining if the state of adhesion of the paste is defective by judging whether the width of the detected strip-shaped region is too much wider or too much narrower than the prescribed width.

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[10] The device for inspecting the state of adhesion of a paste according to claim 9, characterized by further comprising:

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a display device that displays the judgment result in a visually recognizable way when the state of adhesion of the paste is judged to be defective by the judgment means.